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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/668,345	09/25/2000	Naoya Murakami	016907/1167	1883

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EXAMINER

GRANT II, JEROME

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2626

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/668,345

Applicant(s)

MURAKAMI

Examiner

Jerome Grant II

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6-15 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) g.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Detailed Action

1.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Okamoto.

With respect to claim 1, Okamoto teaches an image forming apparatus (1, shown by figure 1), comprising: image reading means (described at col. 2, lines 49-53) for reading a document image (G) to generate an image signal (I1); image forming means 9 and drum 5 for forming a copying image corresponding to the image signal supplied from the image reading means, on a receiving medium, paper in tray 6, feeding means (rollers 7) for feeding the image receiving medium to the image forming means ; magnification setting means 4 for providing magnification described @ col. 3, lines 35-43. Okamoto

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teaches timing control means 12 shown by figure 2 and discussed at second full paragraph of col. 3 for controlling at least one of timing of supply of the image signal from the image reading means to the image forming means 5 and timing of feed of the feed means 7 and 8 such that the size of the margins (L1 and L2) between a leading edge (g) of the image receiving medium and that of the copying image formed on the image receiving medium is fixed irrespective of the reading magnification.

Note the speed of conveyance is adjusted for magnification so that distance L1 and L2 is relatively constant, see col. 3, line 44, to col. 4, line 16. The distance is designated by the operator according to col. 3, lines 30-35.

With respect to claim 2, Okamoto teaches an image forming apparatus (1, shown by figure 1), comprising: image reading means (described at col. 2, lines 49-53) for reading a document image (G) to generate an image signal (I1); image forming means 9 and drum 5 for forming a copying image corresponding to the image signal supplied from the image reading means, on a receiving medium, paper in tray 6, feeding means (rollers 7) for feeding the image receiving medium to the image forming means ; magnification setting means 4 for providing magnification described @ col. 3, lines 35-43. Okamoto teaches a timing control means 12 for controlling the supply of the image signal from the read means based on the size of the margin between the leading edge and the copying image. Okamoto teaches the control means 12 for controlling at least one of timing of supply of the image signal from the image reading means to the image forming means 5 and timing of feed of the feed means 7 and 8 such that the size of the

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margins (L1 and L2) between a leading edge (g) of the image receiving medium and that of the copying image formed on the image receiving medium is fixed irrespective of the reading magnification.

Note the speed of conveyance is adjusted for magnification so that distance L1 and L2 is relatively constant, see col. 3, line 44, to col. 4, line 16. The distance is designated by the operator according to col. 3, lines 30-35.

With respect to claim 3, Okamoto teaches an image forming apparatus (1, shown by figure 1), comprising: image reading means (described at col. 2, lines 49-53) for reading a document image (G) to generate an image signal (I1); image forming means 9 and drum 5 for forming a copying image corresponding to the image signal supplied from the image reading means, on a receiving medium, paper in tray 6, feeding means (rollers 7) for feeding the image receiving medium to the image forming means ; magnification setting means 4 for providing magnification described @ col. 3, lines 35-43. Okamoto teaches the timing control means 12 for controlling timing of the feed of the image receiving medium (paper tray 6) from the feeding means to the image forming means 9 such that a size of a margin L1 – L2 is between the leading edge g of the image receiving means and that of the copying image I1 formed on the image receiving medium fixed relative to the reading magnification.

2.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamaguchi.

With respect to claim 4, Yamaguchi teaches an image forming system (shown by figure 1) comprising a scanner 102, for scanning an image of a document to output an image signal and a printer 105 for copying the image onto an image receiving medium in response to the image signal, wherein: the system comprises scanning magnification setting means 104 (shown in figure 1) for setting a scanning magnification when the scanner scans a document; the scanner includes an image sensor 103 for outputting a signal generated by optically scanning the document in a main scanning direction and sub-scanning direction perpendicular to the main scanning direction; the printer 105 includes sub-scanning start signal (when the memory in line buffer is full and the contents have been printed out). Yamaguchi teaches generation of a sub-scanning start signal (pulse from figure 5f) for causing the scanner to start scanning the document in the sub-scanning direction; and the system is configured so as to change timing at which the sub-scanning start signal generation means (drive pulse 208) generates the sub-scanning start signal in accordance with the scanning magnification

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(thinning counter 203) set by the scanning magnification setting means (see col. 5, lines 28-39. Magnification is determined by element 104.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamoto in view of Yamaguchi.

Okamoto teaches all of the subject matter upon which the claim depends except for changing the timing so that the margin is fixed.

Yamaguchi teaches sensor 103 and control means 101 for conveying documents at a constant timing at unity magnification. Motor 110 controls conveyance, and the process of read signals from 103 and moderates the document conveyance. Hence, by

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console 115 the timing of the generation of the start signal can be designated by an operator while the conveyance distance is fixed.

Since Yamaguchi and Okamoto are related with respect to management of document flow operations based upon magnification values as a factor, the purpose of controlling the timings of the generation signal would have been contemplated by Okamoto. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the microcomputer 12 of Okamoto so that a timing signal could control the generation of the start signal to control the conveyance so that between documents the distance is fixed, as suggested by microprocessor 101 of Yamaguchi.

Claims Allowed

Claims 6 and 7 are allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach or suggest inc claimed combination, "... the system is configured so as to change relative timing between timing at which the image signal is output from the delay memory and timing at which the image receiving medium is fed by the feeding means in accordance with the scanning magnification set by the scanning magnification setting means."

Claims 8-11 are allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach or suggest in claimed combination, "... timing control means for correcting a difference in timing between the image signal of different colors which is caused by the given intervals in the sub-scanning direction of the plurality of line sensors.. copying means for copying the color image of the document onto an image receiving medium in response to the image signal of different colors shoes timing difference is corrected by the timing correction means... timing control mans for changing at least one of operation timing of the image sensor and that of the copying means based on a specific reading magnification set by the reading magnification setting means."

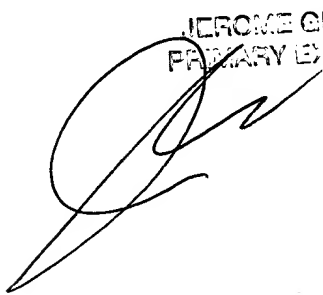
Claims 12 and 13 are allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach or suggest in claimed combination, "... checking whether the scanning magnification is changed... varying timing at which the sub-scanning start signal is generated in accordance with the scanning magnification changed by the scanning magnification setting means."

Claims 14 and 15 are allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach in claimed combination, "... checking whether the scanning magnification is changed... varying relative timing between timing at which the image signal is output from the delay memory and timing at which the image receiving medium is fed by the feeding means in accordance with the scanning magnification changed by the scanning magnification setting means."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerome Grant II whose telephone number is 703-305-4391. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 9:0 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams, can be reached on (703) 305-4863. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.


JEROME GRANT II
PRIMARY EXAMINER